

Blanchard Road

Community Meeting – December 15, 2005

Concerns:

- Truck traffic at night –volume of heavy trucks high 2-6AM
 - 30 MPH Speed limit is too high
 - Need pedestrian crossing (marked) at Glenn Road to match bus stop
 - Lack of attention from City re. maintenance/repair and policing
 - Inside curb not maintained
 - Worst crashes = drunk drivers
 - Problem is that it is too hard to decelerate from 40 MPH to 30 mph in short distance (even though curve can be done safely @ 30 mph)
 - Look at street lights: clean, re-lamp, trim bushes
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Comments:

- Need additional meeting
- Like proposed narrowing street, bike lanes
- Can we restrict truck traffic (night only may be easier)?
- Short term: enforcement; project needs to be high priority because of frequency / severity of accidents
- Crosswalk at Glenn Rd should be raised
- Raised intersections on Rindge successful
- Why not make Blanchard Road one-way with a raised crosswalk at Glenn Road and wider sidewalks?
- Lighted sign indicating speed of vehicle
- Heavy congestion between 3- 4:30PM
- Get 25 mph designation
- Narrow travel lane to 10'-11' to give more room for bikes and wider sidewalks
- A lot of joggers use Blanchard Road
- Widen sidewalk, make it accessible
- At Blanchard Rd #1A and #1 utility pole and hedge blocks sidewalks
- Changing visual character of the street will serve to reduce speeds; presence of additional pedestrians plus bikes would too
- Re-time light at Concord/Blanchard (but will likely not affect speed)
- Empty Mabardy trucks on Blanchard in early AM, also UPS trucks, and fuel trucks
- Collect data to determine if eligible for truck exclusion from the state
- State Rep. Anne Paulsen: willing to assist with state permitting – look at issues such as “context sensitive design”
- Truck exclusion requires showing what the alternate route would be

Next Steps – Short Term:

- Do topographic survey (asap)
- Make signage changes (*note: completed first week of January*)
- Road markings (spring, when temperature > 50 degrees)
- Vegetation (over winter)
- Enforcement (focus at Glenn Road at night)
- Speed trailer (is there room?)
- Submit request to Mass Highway to reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph
- Collect the required data to determine if Blanchard Road is eligible for a truck ban. If so, work with Belmont to submit request to Mass Highway.

Long Term Improvements:

- There was strong support for making long term improvements to Blanchard Road. These improvements cannot move forward until funding is obtained to reconstruct Blanchard Road, see below for more information on funding.
- Additional community meetings will be held after funding is obtained and before a design plan for Blanchard Road is developed. There was strong support for incorporating the following elements into a redesigned Blanchard Road:
 - Proper crown through the curve section
 - Improved curve radii
 - Narrower travel lanes
 - Bicycle lanes
 - Concrete sidewalks
 - Crossing island at Glenn Road
 - Strong pavement markings, including in-ground raised pavement markings.

Funding:

- Design money
- Construction money
- Submit FY07 budget request. The earliest funding could potentially be available is July 2006.

Communication:

- Send periodic e-mails
- Post notes from meeting on web
- Meet in spring once outcome of budget request is known

Data Collection:

- Topographic Survey (over the winter, depending on weather)
- Truck volumes, which are required before a request for a truck exclusion can be submitted to the state (winter)